

From: Jim Warren [jim@ncwarn.org]
Sent: 3/22/2018 12:45:06 PM
To: Jim Warren [jim@ncwarn.org]
Subject: [External] Reply to Duke Energy's Libel Threat, Subversion of Democracy

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March 22, 2018

Lynn J. Good
President and Chief Executive Officer
Duke Energy Corporation
Charlotte, North Carolina

Subject: Your threat of libel suit can't silence the truth as we add voices to the call for you to curb methane emissions, avert runaway climate chaos and stop subverting democracy

Dear Ms. Good,

Your decision not to reply to the [February 19 letter](#) now endorsed* by scores of public interest groups, businesses and performer-activists reinforces our complaints that the nation's largest climate polluting utility, Duke Energy: 1) is increasing its greenhouse gas emissions by expanding fracked gas usage; 2) remains only 2 percent renewable in the Carolinas; 3) is driving humanity toward runaway climate chaos, and; 4) is gambling its own corporate future on hopes that you can keep suppressing news coverage and public awareness about methane emissions and cheaper, clean energy alternatives.

Support for our appeal continues to grow, with recent endorsers including *Americans Against Fracking*, a national alliance of more than 300 groups. All of these people recognize the importance of going straight to the corporate CEO most responsible for the U.S. fracking boom as a key driver of the global climate crisis that is increasingly devastating communities here and worldwide.

The facts cited above obviously crash headlong with your corporate propaganda and influence campaign – fueled by more than \$80 million annually – that has successfully misled and suppressed the media, civic leaders and public response. With your money polluting the democratic process so destructively, we name you personally as "Key Decider" regarding humanity's fate as climate disruption rapidly approaches a tipping point toward abrupt changes that would likely cause cascading environmental, social and economic chaos from which none of us will escape.

Regarding Duke Energy's March 9th [threat of a libel suit](#) against NC WARN in response to [evidence](#) we submitted to the NC Utilities Commission showing how its influence money corrupts our society: It is obvious that we struck a nerve by pointing to the ugly under-belly of Duke Energy's corporate business model – buying influence over decision-makers. To be clear, NC WARN will not buckle to your attempts to silence us.

As recently noted by the most prominent climate activist, Bill McKibben, [the biggest failure](#) by those fighting fervently to slow climate change has been not overcoming the oil-gas-power industries' prodigious propaganda that has suppressed and distorted methane's leading role in driving the near-runaway climate crisis.

The ironic tragedy is that, as shown by [Rocky Mountain Institute](#), [Environmental Defense Fund](#) and others, capturing 60-70% of the methane instead of spewing it unburned into the air can be achieved at zero net cost. As RMI's Amory Lovins says,

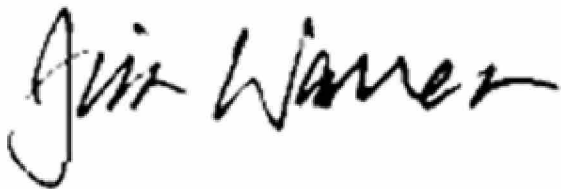
"Our best chance to address runaway methane emissions is to tighten up the oil and gas supply chain where large amounts of methane are intentionally vented and unintentionally leaked."

Yet Duke Energy is on record opposing requirements for such prudent requirements, even as many scientists say slowing methane emissions is absolutely necessary if humanity is to avert the point of no return for climate disruption.

To that end, we recently learned that a [United Nations climate panel](#) has joined Dr. Michael Mann and other scientists in arguing that global greenhouse emissions must peak, then start downward no later than 2020 if humanity is to avert that point of no return.

Therefore, we again call on you personally to rise to this unprecedented challenge to help slow global warming via the critical measures cited in our February 19 letter: 1) Stop venting unburned methane into the air, 2) Cancel the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and plans to build dozens of fracked gas power plants, and 3) Commit to quickly replacing all fossil fuel electricity with renewables matched with energy storage, efficiency and energy-balancing programs as outlined in our [NC Clean Path 2025](#) strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being more prominent than the last name "Warren".

Jim Warren
Executive Director

cc: Governor Roy Cooper

Attorney General Josh Stein

**Endorsers of NC WARN's February 19th letter to CEO Lynn Good:*

Center for Biological Diversity
Hip Hop Caucus
Food and Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Rachel Carson Council
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
Public Citizen
350.org
198 methods
NC Environmental Justice Network
Winston Salem NAACP
Hollywood United
Bonnie Raitt, Musician/Activist
Guacamole Fund
Morning Sun Foundation
Beloved Community Center
Concerned Citizens of Tillery
Dogwood Alliance
Appalachian Voices
Clean Water for North Carolina
Clean Air Carolina
North Carolina Coastal Federation
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
NC Climate Justice Summit
NC APPPL (Alliance To Protect Our People and the Places We Live)
350 Triangle
350 Winston Salem
350 Asheville
350 Charlotte
Canary Coalition
Crystal Coast Waterkeeper/Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Climate Reality Project: Triangle, NC Chapter
UNC Asheville Divest
Community Roots
Chatham Research Group
Triangle Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Additional endorsements after February 19:

Americans Against Fracking
World Stewardship Institute
National Religious Coalition on Creation Care
Moore Beatty Investments, LLC
Protecting Progress in Durham
Climate Voices US
Golden Egg Permaculture
The Wakaboomee Adventure Traveling
Education Program LLC
Working Films
Box Turtle Bakery
Shift Bars, LLC
Inclusive Development International
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Earth Justice group
Universal Blessings Unlimited, Inc.
Perper Design
My NC Homes
Forest City 350 Climate Coalition (Illinois)
Elgin Green Groups 350 (Illinois)
ECO Committee of the Community Church of
Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist
Transylvania Indivisible
Connect Marketing

Building large power plants is making the climate crisis worse – by squandering precious years and dollars that should be going toward energy efficiency, renewables and energy storage.

Jim Warren, *Executive Director*

NC WARN

Durham, NC 919-416-5077 www.ncwarn.org